

# Samaritan House News

Homeless Shelter For Women and Their Children

## Staff

Brandi Schroeder,  
Executive Director

Nicki Tata,  
Case Manager

Chris Kirkendall,  
Administrative Assistant

Jessica Peterson  
Case Aide

House Managers:

Dani Aalbertsberg

Georgia Barrows

Alice Donahue

Linda Donahue

Evelyn Johnson

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Stacey Leon

Mahgen Nance

Sharon Pitson

## Reflections

By: Brandi Schroeder

To be honest, I struggle writing articles for our newsletter. I have been with Samaritan House 25+ years of the 35 it has been in existence and each year, I feel like I have probably already written the same thing before. I want to be a good reflection of the organization and mission that I represent and often I feel small and inadequate for all she needs. While reviewing Jessica's Moments article (pg 2), something about seeing the reflections not as something past, but just as they are in that moment stirred me. In preparation for the newsletter, I took a few pictures of the building updates and sent them to my coworker Chris for tweaking. I had had a nagging feeling to read the words on the piece of art volunteers had placed in the newly remodeled bathroom, but I didn't. We often experience synchronicities here. Unknowing of my nagging feeling, Chris mentioned that she enhanced the photo and captured the art piece, thinking we might be able to tie it into an article. It was time to listen.



We can't go back. We can't change the past. We can't undo the loss of friends, mentors, loved ones, abilities we once had, dreams for the shelter still unfulfilled. I saw that I, just as many of our residents do, was carrying a weight that I no longer had the strength to hold. This wasn't a new concept to me. I know the value of living in the present, finding contentment in all circumstances. But somewhere along the way, I forgot to let go. We were never meant to carry the world or figure out the future. I rely heavily on my faith but I still need my community to lift me up, and sometimes to help me see what I cannot. Trusting God with the future and our mission, makes room for me to joyfully prepare for the next stage, whatever that may be. As I began to put down the baggage I had been carrying, I could see a little clearer. I thought about a time a few months back when our trusted contractor and friend of the shelter was helping me to move furniture and brace a table I'd had in my office for years, to make a space for a newer staff member to put down roots. We were both a bit worn from the roadblocks and seemingly endless discovery of work to be done and happy to be taking on a project that could be completed quickly. While moving the table, a drawer I had long forgotten about begged to be opened. Inside the drawer were photos from twenty years ago, just after our boilers had to be replaced and before tuck-pointing began and 911 occurred. The photos held memories of coming in with my own small children to take pictures of the residents and their children to keep for themselves as they enjoyed karaoke, dancing and a pizza party. At the time, cell phones were not readily available and I knew what capturing memories of my children meant for me, and I wanted them to have that also. There were also photos of a rotting floor, drooping ceiling tiles, and exterior disrepair. Finding the photos was a sweet reminder of how far we have come with the help of so many and of the goodness to be found in the moment. A gentle reminder to do what we can and have faith in what will be. To share love, to comfort, to uplift, to hurt for and with each other and to use that pain to build bridges to help others with theirs. To teach and share as our mentors have us. To never be too old to learn new things or see the beauty and value of young ideas and childlike faith. To not give up or lose hope for the future.



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"To share love, to comfort, to uplift, to hurt for and with each other and to use that pain to build bridges to help others with theirs."

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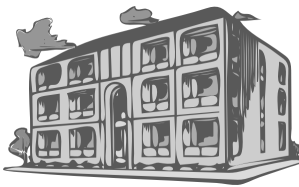
328 W McKibben Street  
Lima, Ohio 45801  
(419) 222-HOME (4663)

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## Rental Lottery

By: Jessica Peterson

There was a time when as long as you worked, saved a little for a down payment/first month's rent and could provide references, you would be able to secure an affordable rental lease with a private landlord. This is no longer the case. During the post pandemic period, we have seen interest rates and prices of homes soar. In return, qualified home buyers who would have been purchasing a home now enter the rental market instead. This has decreased the number of rentals and increased the amount of competition for those rentals. Low-income single mothers are now competing against two income households, with higher credit scores and whopping down payments. The rental market is now flooded with prospective tenants who would have been purchasing their first home prior to inflation. This new housing market squeeze is leading to skyrocketing rents increasing 20% or more, mounting evictions and homeless staying homeless longer. Obtaining a rental is no longer a matter of working, saving and references but has become a lottery.



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## Moments

By: Jessica Peterson

Evenings in the shelter can be busy and downright chaotic. That's why I wasn't surprised when I saw a teen brother and sister dancing. They had selected our large floor length mirror in a common area as their stage. It felt like I was witnessing one of those last silly moments together as siblings before becoming a teenager disallows for such foolishness. I felt instant gratitude towards the mirror and the moment it was able to provide for them. I thought about all the mirror has seen over the years. Women have passed by with a quick glance in their recently provided outfit before heading off to the first day of their new job. Toddlers have gleefully giggled at their reflection while sitting on the floor in front of it while their mothers welcomed a little break. Mascara tears and smudged makeup have been wiped away in the same reflection as residents work through their struggles. The mirror was a good reminder to me of the importance of meeting a client where they are at that moment. The moment may reflect a need for confidence, a need for laughter, a need to wipe away tears or just to be heard. Sometimes that moment is simply providing a way to enjoy the normality of being a kid and doing a TikTok dance.



## Her Very Own Bed

By: Jessica Peterson

During my time in Case Management, Sam has been my youngest client, just turning 19. During her teen years her dad was no longer able to care for her. She moved from family member to family member. Sam never shared information concerning the whereabouts of her mother but I found her searching for adult guidance and even approval during our first meetings. She would often ask questions that adult children would seek from their parents. Questions such as how do I file taxes, how do I make an appointment with a new doctor or how does someone get a good credit score. This is when I learned Sam needed little direction; rather just guided in the *right* direction. When showing her how to create a budget and save she fully committed to the concept. She obtained a planner, wrote all her goals down and tracked everything. Sam then started working, and boy did she work. Sam would manage to work almost 60 hours a week saving every penny possible. Instead of paying for a cab costing 50 dollars a week she would take the bus costing her only two dollars a day. On Saturdays when the bus wasn't running, she walked. Everything possible was saved to help reach her goals of getting her first apartment, saving for a car and for a bed. I realized that it was very important to Sam to have her own bed. Sam never shared much but she did share she is excited to one day have a bed that belonged to no one else but her. Although Sam was working all hours available to her and following up on housing applications, her situation stayed the same. Affordable rentals were scarce and time in the shelter is limited to 90 days. We viewed the lowest rates for local hotels. Even with the cheapest rate this would quickly eat up all the savings Sam had worked so hard to build. With a matter of days left, Sam decided to attend a meal a local church group was holding at the shelter. During a moment of prayer and uplifting conversation Sam's phone rang. A landlord was calling to inform her she had been approved for a rental. Sam was overjoyed to tears. We worked quickly on the steps to turn on utilities in her name, make the required deposits, and a list of essential items she would need for her new home. There were the big ticket items such as a bed, refrigerator, and oven, but also the everyday household items often taken for granted; shower curtain, silverware, pans, a toilet bowl brush and much more. Starting out new, especially for a young person that hasn't accumulated anything, is very expensive.

It was during this time that two private organizations reached out to the shelter. While Sam was fully prepared to use a microwave and mini fridge until she could save up for a stove and fridge, one organization was able to donate a both. The church group who had been with Sam the night she learned her application had been selected also wanted to help. They were hoping with Sam's permission they could gather a couple items for her new apartment. They were able to beautifully navigate collecting items for Sam for her first apartment. With so many blessings there was now one item Sam was ready to purchase. Her very own bed.

# Shelter Updates



Rick Gass works on removing and replacing damaged bricks during the tuck-pointing project.



Newly expanded and remodeled bathroom on the 3rd floor. Includes additional space and a shower.

We have been busy! This past year we finished out the window project that began in 2015, replacing the last of the 82 windows in need. We knew it was time for tuck-pointing but as we began one project it seemed each revealed the need for another. It has continued to be challenging to get reliable contractors and bids and even once those were secured, many still struggled to have enough employees and access to supplies. We feel very blessed to be nearing completion on not only the tuck-pointing project, but also the full replacement and upgrade to our gutter systems and rubber roof repairs that should see us through for a bit. We had to make the decision to repair as materials were not available to replace the rubber roof and were not expected to be available to install until next year. This seemed to be the best decision to keep the projects going since one's timing was dependent on the next and also to utilize project specific grant dollars within the allowable time frame. A bathroom remodel/expansion was also completed. This added a shower to the third floor where previously there had only been tubs. We plan to keep the original large claw foot soaking tub in the other bathroom on that level as long as possible as it is a resident favorite. Although there was a second bathroom it was very small and difficult to use when accompanied by children. Thanks to a longstanding volunteer group partnership, the new bathroom was outfitted with beautiful, inspiring décor. We were able to complete these projects by pairing private and government funds. With a building of our age and size, there will always be projects. We are extremely grateful to be able to get this level of work completed in order to continue to provide a safe and viable shelter for years to come.

TOGETHER WE CAN AND DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! WILL YOU HELP?

Please find my tax-deductible contribution enclosed for the following donation:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting a separate receipt for my gift. \_\_\_\_  
Please note any person being recognized for a birthday, memorial, etc., along with their address. A separate acknowledgment will be sent to the recipient excluding the dollar amount.

*The women and children of Lima's Samaritan House thank you!*

Mail to: 328 West McKibben St. Lima, Ohio 45801



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 328 W. McKibben St.  
 Lima, OH 45801  
 samaritanhouselima.org  
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Samaritan House



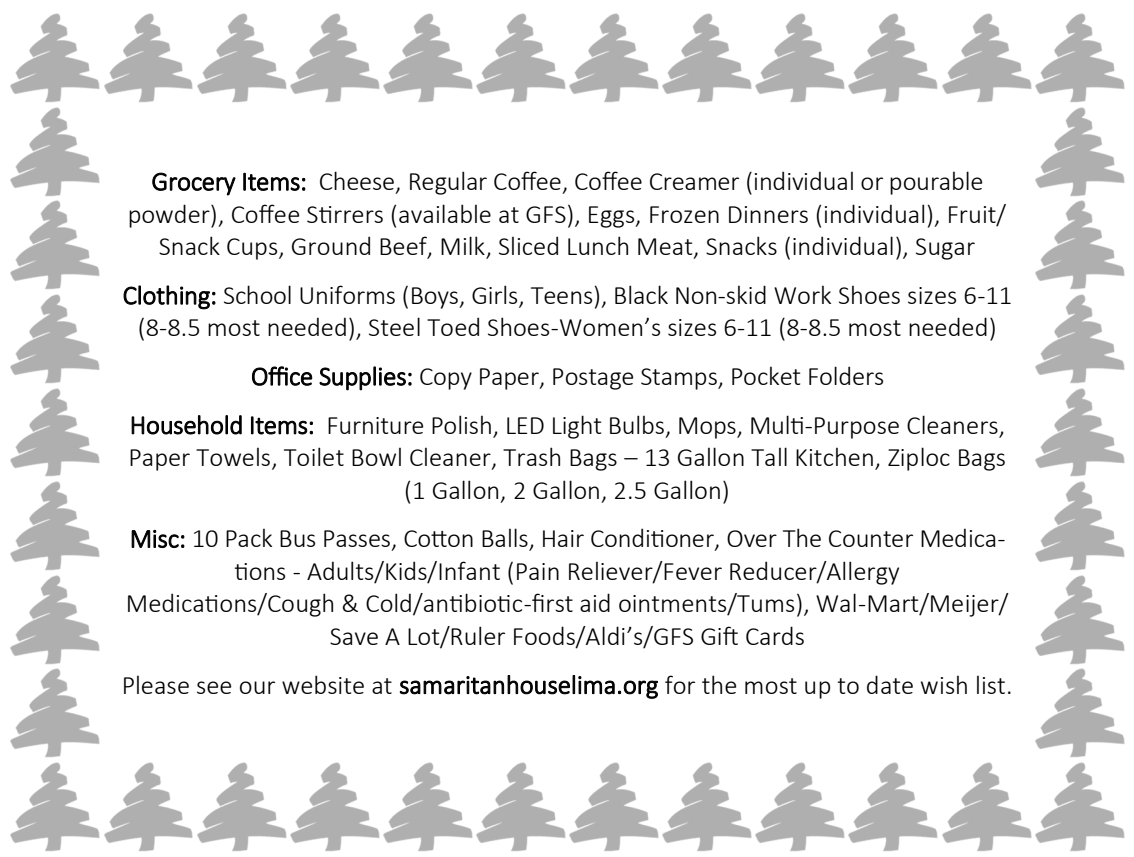
**Mission Statement**

Restoring personal dignity and independence to homeless women and their children by providing shelter, hope and guidance.

**Vision Statement**

Lima's Samaritan House, Inc. will be recognized as the community leader in providing quality service to homeless women and their children with integrity through empowerment, education, financial stability and networking.

**Wish List**



**Grocery Items:** Cheese, Regular Coffee, Coffee Creamer (individual or pourable powder), Coffee Stirrers (available at GFS), Eggs, Frozen Dinners (individual), Fruit/ Snack Cups, Ground Beef, Milk, Sliced Lunch Meat, Snacks (individual), Sugar

**Clothing:** School Uniforms (Boys, Girls, Teens), Black Non-skid Work Shoes sizes 6-11 (8-8.5 most needed), Steel Toed Shoes-Women's sizes 6-11 (8-8.5 most needed)

**Office Supplies:** Copy Paper, Postage Stamps, Pocket Folders

**Household Items:** Furniture Polish, LED Light Bulbs, Mops, Multi-Purpose Cleaners, Paper Towels, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Trash Bags – 13 Gallon Tall Kitchen, Ziploc Bags (1 Gallon, 2 Gallon, 2.5 Gallon)

**Misc:** 10 Pack Bus Passes, Cotton Balls, Hair Conditioner, Over The Counter Medications - Adults/Kids/Infant (Pain Reliever/Fever Reducer/Allergy Medications/Cough & Cold/antibiotic-first aid ointments/Tums), Wal-Mart/Meijer/ Save A Lot/Ruler Foods/Aldi's/GFS Gift Cards

Please see our website at [samaritanhouselima.org](http://samaritanhouselima.org) for the most up to date wish list.